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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
October 14, 2022**

Supervisors Present: Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman
David Cain
Leroy Candelaria
Larry Gomez
Dale Rose

Absentees: Robin Dunn
Jack Lockridge

Others Present: Dierdre Tarr, District Manager
Josh Archuleta, NRCS
Roy Gibson
Katie Mechenbier, S&W Cons. Spec. NMDA
Arlene Perea, Mountainair Ranger District
Ernest Taylor, Mountainair Ranger District
Katheryn Taylor, volunteer
Dan Williams

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District (CPSWCD) was called to order by Felipe Lovato, Jr., Chairman, both in person and via Zoom at 8:05 a.m.

Welcome Attendees:

The chairman welcomed those present and thanked them for joining the meeting. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The board reviewed the agenda. **ACTION TAKEN:** Larry Gomez moved to approve the agenda. Leroy Candelaria seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Dale Rose, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; David Cain, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Leroy Candelaria.

APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION TAKEN: Larry Gomez moved to approve both the August and September minutes as read. Leroy Candelaria seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Dale Rose, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; David Cain, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Leroy Candelaria.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report for the month of September 2022 with accounts payable for October, 2022.

ACTION TAKEN: Larry Gomez moved to approve the treasurer's report for September 2022 and pay the accounts payable for October 2022. Leroy Candelaria seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Dale Rose, aye; Felipe Lovato, aye; David Cain, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Leroy Candelaria.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The district manager mentioned that she has not yet heard from the district's auditor.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture:

The NMDA's written report for October was provided to the board members. Katie Mechenbier pointed out the items important for the district. She pointed out important due dates for the annual report of activities, the annual plan, and the adoption of the Open Meetings Act Resolution.

- The Agricultural Workforce Development Program is still welcoming applications from agribusinesses seeking to hire interns. Interns can be older than 18 and include people interested in working in farming and ranching.
- NM Edge will be holding Public Purchasing Foundation Classes & Test for State CPO, October 11-14. There will also be Recertification classes during the month of October.
- New Mexico Soil & Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) met on Thursday, October 13, 2022. The Claunch-Pinto District was approved for \$100,000.
- The Office of the New Mexico Attorney General will hold an online presentation/training on the "Sunshine Laws" on November 22nd .
- Reminders for Healthy Soil Program FY23 grantees and tips for FY24 grant applicants are included in the report.
- The Post-fire Round up was created to keep the public informed about the progress that is being made on the National Forest Systems land affected by wildfires in 2022. To keep informed visit <https://nmfireinfo.com/2022/09/20/post-fire-roundup/>.
- 30 by 30 Committee is seeking input to define important conservation terms.

The district manager pointed out the meeting on Oct. 20: "New Water for NM" Public Forum on Desalination. Mr. Gibson volunteered to attend the meeting.

NRCS Mountainair Field Office Report:

The NRCS Mountainair Field Office written report for October is included in board member's packets.

Mr. Archuleta pointed out items of interest.

Team 5 field office staff is certifying annual CSP documentation and will make payments by the end of the month.

The Local Work Group meeting was held on September 27, 2022. Mr. Lujan has submitted his proposal based on all input received at the meeting.

November 18 is the deadline for applications for CSP Classic, EQIO Classic and ACEP. The deadline for CSP-GCI-1 is October 14, 2022.

The CSP annual documentation was turned in.

District Manager's Report:

The district manager said that land owners will attend the next board meeting to present petitions asking the board to contact the state conservationist and congressional delegation to request better support from NRCS for small landowners with 1000 acres or less. She explained the board's role in supporting the needs of these landowners.

The district manager reported on a chainsaw accident to a worker's hand, the extent of the injury, the treatment and prospective outcome.

CORRESPONDANCE:

Claunch-Pinto SWCD

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The district manager read a note on behalf of the FFA and 4-H participants in the Corona buyers' club thanking the district for its generous support.

UPDATE ON GRANTS:

The District Manager's Written Report to CPSWCD Board Plus Comments – Update on Grants, October, 2022:

[The district manager reported that she is working on the Water Trust Board (WTB) grants. She turned in a proposal for FY 2023 for both the Greater Rio Grande and the Estancia Basin and will prepare a presentation on the proposal to submit to the WTB.

Concerning the NM State Forestry grants, she said that Vernon Kohler went out with representatives of the Department of Transportation (DOT) to measure with GPS highway 317 so that a practice plan can be written for the work along the highway right of way. They will return to the field next week to measure the other areas where work will be done. Practice plans have already been written for some locations. Work on some State Forestry grants is proceeding, but because of the difficulty in finding hand crews to do the work, a contractor has been selected to do some of the work.

Brent Racher has started work on the Seboyetta project, but it has been delayed until after November 8.

Larry Taylor is working on the San Cristobal project near Galisteo as well as the Glorieta project, but he is in the process of training another operator, so that work has been delayed.

The Romeros have begun work on some Collaborative Forest Restoration projects for this fiscal year and have delivered wood to the Manzano land grant office as per the agreement with the Forest Service. Cody Stropki has been working with the high school students who have been on the monitoring project. An oral report is planned for the board's next meeting.

Cody Stropki and Kris Graham Chavez from NRCS will work with the district manager on Monday to finish the paperwork on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

The EA is now in the FEMA legal department for review. It is hoped that the rest of the process can be completed by December 31 so that funds for the projects will not be forfeited.

The district manager thanked Katie Mechenbier for her help in securing the \$100,000 in funding from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The money will mostly support district in planning for the next ten years.]

Watershed Health Grant – Water Trust Board (WTB):

2020 EBWHRM WTB Funds – The District is preparing thinning contracts for signature. Claunch-Pinto and East Torrance have a couple of projects that work is being completed on. Claunch-Pinto has 3 projects ready to contract and 11 pending projects. Ken Leiting, East Torrance SWCD has contacted his landowners who have contracts to find out the progress on their projects. We are working with Edgewood SWCD, NM State Land and NM State Forestry on the Bear Cat 50-acre project. The wood from the Bear Cat project will be delivered to Chilili Land Grant by the NM State Forestry Inmate Work Crew. The Land Grant Counsel will then distribute the wood to the area land grants. Edgewood SWCD has 300-acre project to be contracted as soon as the landowner approves the practice plan. This grant will have to be expended by December 18, 2022.

2020 GRGWA WTB Funds – We are working with the landowners of the San Cristobal, Seboyeta-Moquino Creek, and Glorieta projects and the contractors to get these projects completed before December 2022. This grant will have to be expended by December 18, 2022. The district is working on resprout treatments for the previously completed GRGWA projects. The first resprout treatment on the San Cristobal Ranch will take place on 09/09/2022.

2021 WTB Funds: The EBWHRM and GRGWA grant documents have been signed and the district has been notified the grants have closed, so we can proceed to start projects.

2023 WTB Proposals: Proposals were submitted for this funding on September 23, 2022.

NM State Forestry Grants:

2019 NFL Funding – The balance on this funding is \$137,861. This funding will need to be expended by 12/31/2022. The second project is the Chilili Land Grant project in the amount of 40 acres. Vern will be meeting with the contractor for the Chilili Project soon. If we can get the two Edgewood SWCD projects started and our three on-going projects completed, we should be able to expend this funding before the deadline.

2020 NFL Funding – The District has just signed a work plan in the amount of \$276,000. This funding will need to be expended by 12/31/2023.

2022 NFL Funding – The District has been notified that the FY2022 NFL proposal has been funded.

BNSF Railroad Project:

The district will continue to monitor the area for any erosion issues.

Collaborative Forest Restoration Projects:

Watershed Restoration and Fuel Reduction in Bartolo Canyon of the Manzano Mountains:

We hope to have a report ready to present to the Board on the monitoring that took place this past July within the next couple of months. We should be able to start the second-year thinning on this project soon.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):

2017 RCPP Funding – The District's technical assistance work has been completed.

2018 RCPP Funding – All of the cultural resource survey reports for Mountainair have been approved by SHPO. The EZGrants.gov portal for Claunch-Pinto SWCD was set up incorrectly as Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water **Conversation** District. As of today, this has not been corrected. The District Manager is submitting the financial and written reports to the NM NRCS RCPP Project Manager who makes sure the reports are added to the portal so that the district doesn't show past due. The District has finally located the final signed authorization from the State Historical Preservation Office for the last cultural resource survey report completed with this funding.

2021 RCPP Funding – The supplemental agreement has been returned for the fourth time to the Washington D.C. office for approval.

Additional RCPP Funding – The District has received notice that the fiscal year 22 Regional Conservation Partnership Program Renewal proposal in the amount of \$967,000 has tentatively been selected to become an RCPP project. We have also been notified the 2018 RCPP can be renewed. We tried to submit a proposal on 09/09/2022 to request funding to renew the 2018 RCPP in the amount of 3.2 million dollars, but had some problems with the portal.

FEMA Grant Proposal:

Hazard Mitigation Project - HMGP 5281 Sub Grant Agreement:

SWCA delivered the cultural resource survey reports on the projects to FEMA on August 9, 2022. FEMA sent the reports on to SHPO for their review shortly after the 9th of August. SHPO has reviewed the reports and asked FEMA to have the district only conduct hand-thinning in the areas SHPO has highlighted in the report back to FEMA. The NEPA document is being

prepared to send to FEMA so that FEMA can let the District know when we can advertise a 30-day comment period on the project. The District should be able to advertise the comment period by the end of September or the first part of October. At the same time the district will be preparing the 2nd phase proposal to submit to FEMA for funding.

Soil and Water Conservation Commission Proposal:

The District proposal was approved by the Commission for \$100,000. We will be receiving a Memorandum of Agreement for signature before we can proceed with this grant.

New Mexico State Land Projects:

The Edgewood SWCD will be using some of the Water Trust Board allocation to complete a 50-acre State Land Project known as the Bear Cat Project. Claunch-Pinto SWCD will match the funding with their State Forest NFL funding. The Claunch-Pinto SWCD is working with the supervisor of the State Forestry In-Mate Work Crew to get a new memorandum of understanding so that this crew can be used to move the wood on the Bear Cat Project. The District has three additional State Land projects we are working on with the State Land Office.

The district has \$775,406.55 in project either contracted or ready to contract as we have the funding and contractor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Capital Outlay:

New Chipper RFP:

The district manager explained the difference between the award of \$75,000 and the cost of the chipper plus a protection plan. She explained the terms of the proposed loan for the difference and the need to ratify the loan for the balance owed on the new chipper and the protection plan policy. **ACTION TAKEN:** Larry Gomez moved to ratify the loan for the new chipper plus the protection plan. Leroy Candelaria seconded the motion. The motion carried by voice vote: Felipe Lovato, aye; David Cain, aye; Larry Gomez, aye; Leroy Candelaria.

FY 2022 Capital Outlay Request Funded – Skid Steer:

The district manager said that there is not enough money to buy a skid steer and that discussions should be delayed until after the elections.

Torrance and Lincoln County Wind Energy, Corona Wind Companies, Western Spirit Transmission Line:

The district manager said that she expects more windmills will be placed in the Corona area.

Sun Zia Transmission –Draft Environmental Impact Statement:

The district manager said that she received an email announcing the SunZia administrative final EIS (V2) review kick-off meeting will be held on November 9th at 1:00 p.m. She will attend the zoom meeting. Regarding the deteriorating road conditions, she has been informed that the

district needs to go to its congressmen because apparently nothing regarding the condition of the roads was in agreement between with the State and Pattern Energy.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

REPORTS:

New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts:

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No report

South Central Mountain RC&D:

No report.

Estancia Basin Water Planning Committee:

The district manager said that a meeting was held the previous day. Neither a chairman nor a secretary/treasurer has been chosen due to a lack of a quorum. A meeting will be held in December, so perhaps these positions will be filled then.

New Building on Fair Grounds:

The district manager said that she added this item to the agenda at the request of the chair of the Torrance County Fair Board. Mr. Candelaria said that Commissioner McCall has been given the task of moving this issue forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

OTHER:

MEETINGS ATTENDED:

PLAN for NEXT MEETING:

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED:

The next regular meeting will be held Friday, November 4, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. at the Natural Resource Conservation Center, 1206 South Highway 55 in Mountainair, NM.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the board, the regular meeting of the Claunch-Pinto Board, Larry Gomez moved to adjourn. Leroy Candelaria seconded the motion.

FELIPE LOVATO, JR., CHAIRMAN

DAVID CAIN, SECRETARY